



Governor Scott Walker has proclaimed the week of April 17-21, 2017 as Wisconsin's Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week. It is a great opportunity for everyone to practice their severe weather plans.

Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually. In 2016, the National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed 16 tornadoes in Wisconsin. Fortunately, all of these tornadoes were relatively weak, causing minor damage.

On Thursday, April 20, 2017, two statewide tornado drills are planned. A mock tornado watch will be issued statewide by the NWS at 1:00 pm. A mock tornado warning will follow at 1:45 pm with the drill ending at 2:00 pm. The mock alerts will be issued on NOAA Weather Radios and many communities will sound their tornado sirens. Please remember that outdoor warning sirens are for people who are outdoors. When you are inside you should have a NOAA Weather Radio.

An evening drill is scheduled on the same day with a mock tornado warning to take place at 6:45 pm. This gives everyone a chance to practice their severe weather plans at night.

The tornado drill will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark and or rainy. If actual severe storms are expected in the state on Thursday, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 21 with the same times. If severe storms are possible Friday, the drills will be cancelled. Any changes will be issued to local media as well as posted on the Ready Wisconsin website at <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>

Jefferson County Emergency Management encourages your participation in promoting Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week. Thank you.